

Message Text

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SUBJECT: US SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY

REF: (A) STATE 67701 (B) ECA-62 OF FEBRUARY 7, 1977

1. SUMMARY. IN REPLYING TO QUESTIONS RAISED REFTEL, WE HAVE
DRAWN ON THE OBSERVATIONS OF US SCIENTISTS (INCLUDING DR.
E.G. KOVACH OF NSF, COPY OF WHOSE REPORT IS BEING TRANSMITTED
BY AIRGRAM) WHO HAVE MADE RECENT VISITS TO EC AS WELL AS ON
OUR OWN EXPERIENCE. OUR CONCLUSION IS THAT EC PROGRAMS IN
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ARE RELATIVELY MODEST BY NATIONAL STANDARDS
AND, EXCEPT FOR RESEARCH IN THE ENERGY AREA UNDER EURATOM AND
THE IRON AND STEEL COMMUNITY, HAVE ONLY BEEN UNDERTAKEN
IN A SERIOUS AND COORDINATED MANNER SINCE THE SUMMIT MEETING OF
THE EC IN PARIS IN OCTOBER 1972 GAVE A NEW IMPETUS TO EC ACTION
IN THIS AREA. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE THAT THESE NEW PROGRAMS
HAVE RESULTED IN SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS TO DATE AND COULD EXPAND
GREATLY IN THE FUTURE IN BOTH RELATIVE AND ABSOLUTE TERMS,
PARTICULARLY IF THE EC COMMISSION AND EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT BEGIN
TO PUT MORE PRESSURE FOR ACTION ON THE COUNCIL, AS IS ANTICIPATED.
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THIS EXPANSION, AS WELL AS SOME CURRENT PROGRAMS, CAN PROVIDE
OPPORTUNITIES FOR AN IMPORTANT INCREASE IN MUTUALLY-BENEFICIAL EC-US
COLLABORATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. END SUMMARY

2. PRESENT SITUATION. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A ONCE-THRIVING
NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROGRAM BETWEEN EURATOM AND THE US ATOMIC
ENERGY COMMISSION AND RECENT COOPERATION ON ENERGY RESEARCH UNDER

THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY, EC SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION WITH THE US HAS BEEN LARGELY INFORMAL, INCIDENTAL AND UNSTRUCTURED. THESE HAVE INCLUDED INFORMAL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN US AGENCIES (E.G., NASA, NRC, NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS (NSB), NOAA, EP, AND THE NSF), US PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS AND INDIVIDUAL SCIENTISTS ON THE ONE HAND AND THE EC JOINT RESEARCH CENTERS OR OTHER EUROPEAN ACADEMIC, INDUSTRIAL AND GOVERNMENTAL LABORATORIES WITH EC INVOLVEMENT ON THE OTHER HAND.

3. THE SCATTERED NATURE OF THESE PRAGMATIC SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENTS AND THE FACT THAT THIS MISSION IS NOT KEPT INFORMED ON MOST OF THEM PREVENT US FROM MAKING A MEANINGFUL ASSESSMENT OF THE LEVEL OF PAST AND PRESENT US-EC TIES AS REQUESTED IN QUESTIONS A AND B, PARAGRAPH 3, OF REFTEL. DR. KOVACH AFTER HIS EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS DURING HIS SURVEY IN BRUSSELS AND THE EC JOINT RESEARCH CENTER (JRC) AT ISPRA, ITALY, CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT SUCH COOPERATION IS AT A REASONABLE LEVEL BUT LESS THAN PREVIOUSLY EXISTED. HE QUOTES ONE SOURCE TO THE EFFECT THAT THE DECLINE IN US-FUNDED RESEARCH HAS FORCED THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH CENTERS TO WORK MORE CLOSELY WITH EACH OTHER. WHILE THIS COMMENT MAY BE TRUE IN REGARD TO US COLLABORATION WITH THE EC MEMBER STATES, IT IS NOT NECESSARILY APPLICABLE TO SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES INITIATED DIRECTLY BY THE EC OUTSIDE THE ENERGY AREA. AS POINTED OUT ABOVE, THESE ACTIVITIES ARE RELATIVELY NEW AND, THUS, COOPERATION WITH THE US HAS PROBABLY NOT HAD MUCH TIME TO DEVELOP.

4. PROSPECTS. WE BELIEVE EC SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ACTIVITIES ARE DEVELOPING MOMENTUM, EVEN OUTSIDE THE ENERGY AREA WHERE EC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROGRAMS HAVE HAD SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE FOR SOME TIME. FURTHERMORE, US SCIENTISTS WHO HAVE CONVEYED THEIR VIEWS TO US BELIEVE THAT THE WORK IS VALUABLE AND WOULD GENERALLY BE OF INTEREST TO OTHER US SCIENTISTS. EXPANDING OUR INVOLVEMENT IN THESE GROWING PROGRAMS, THEREFORE, PRESENTS NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVANCING DIRECT US INTERESTS AND WOULD HELP ADVANCE US POLICY OF SUPPORTING A STRONG EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS. THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION TO INCREASE US-EC SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION BY AND LARGE DO NOT APPLY TO COLLABORATION IN THE ENERGY AREA WHERE THERE IS A LONG HISTORY OF COOPERATION AND EXISTING CHANNELS FOR COOPERATION EITHER THROUGH THE IEA, NATO-CCMS, OR THE WELL-ESTABLISHED LINKS BETWEEN ERDA (AND ITS PREDECESSOR, THE AEC) AND THE EC COMMISSION DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR SCIENCE AND RESEARCH (DG XII) AND EURATOM (THOUGH WE BELIEVE THESE SHOULD BE FURTHER DEVELOPED). THESE SUGGESTIONS ARE INTENDED TO RESPOND TO PARAGRAPH 3(D) IN REFTEL.

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A. PERIODIC EXCHANGE OF VISITS INVOLVING LEADING FIGURES IN US SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (E.G., THE PRESIDENT'S SCIENCE ADVISOR, DIRECTORS OF NSF AND NBS, THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR OES, THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY) AND THE EC COMMISSION IN BRUSSELS AND POSSIBLY THE EC JRC WOULD HELP IDENTIFY AREAS IN WHICH FURTHER COOPERATION MIGHT BE EXPANDED.

B. AN INCREASED FLOW OF VISITORS AT THE PROGRAM MANAGEMENT LEVEL SHOULD ALSO BE ENCOURAGED AND FACILITATED, POSSIBLY THROUGH SUCH MEANS AS JOINT US-EC SPONSORSHIP OF SEMINARS AND SYMPOSIA.

C. THE NSF AND NATIONAL ACADEMY SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO CONSIDER FORMAL ASSOCIATION WITH THE EUROPEAN SCIENCE FOUNDATION. (NOTE: WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE LATTER EXTENDS WELL BEYOND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY TO TAKE IN MOST OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.)

D. SCIENCE AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS IN EUROPE ASSOCIATED WITH EC ACTIVITIES AND THEIR EQUIVALENT US COUNTERPARTS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED (PERHAPS THROUGH NSF) TO EXPAND OR INITIATE PROGRAMS FOR COOPERATIVE EXCHANGES OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION, DATA, AND PERSONNEL.

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E. OES, NSF, AND HEW SHOULD HELP THE EC DISSEMINATE THE OPPORTUNITIES AT THE JRC FOR VISITING US SCIENTISTS ON FELLOWSHIPS OR SABBATICALS MORE WIDELY TO THE US SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY.

6. OUR SCIENTIST VISITORS HAVE INFORMED US THAT THEY WOULD FAVOR ESTABLISHING A FULL-TIME SCIENTIFIC ATTACHE POSITION IN USEC IN ORDER TO ASSURE FULL TIME SUBSTANTIVE REPORTING ON SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENTS IN EC SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND TO ASSIST AN EXPANSION IN EC-US COLLABORATION. WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH A FULL-TIME POSITION IS NOT REQUIRED AT THIS TIME. THE ERDA REPRESENTATIVE IN USEC, WHO HAS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY IN THE ENERGY AREA, THE RESOURCES OFFICER, THE ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS OFFICER, AND OTHER USEC OFFICERS CAN GENERALLY FOLLOW CURRENT SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENTS. AN ANNUAL VISIT BY A LEADING US SCIENCE AUTHORITY, AS RECOMMENDED ABOVE, WOULD CERTAINLY BE A USEFUL SUPPLEMENT TO THESE ACTIVITIES, PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A GENERAL REVIEW OF MATTERS OUTSIDE THE ENERGY AREA. SUCH REGULARLY SCHEDULED VISITS SHOULD BE CAREFULLY PREPARED IN ADVANCE. WE ALSO SUGGEST THAT ENCOURAGING ALL US OFFICIAL SCIENTIFIC VISITORS TO EC INSTITUTIONS TO KEEP USEC FULLY INFORMED ON THEIR ACTIVITIES AND FINDINGS WOULD ALSO HELP USEC EFFORTS TO FACILITATE AND REPORT ON US-EC SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION.

7. WE WOULD ALSO RECOMMEND AGAINST CONSIDERATION OF A FORMAL COMPREHENSIVE US-EC AGREEMENT FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION AT THIS TIME. IT MAY DEVELOP THAT NEGOTIATION OF A MORE STRUCTURED FRAMEWORK FOR ORGANIZING THIS KIND OF COOPERATION WOULD BE DESIRABLE AT SOME FUTURE STAGE, PARTICULARLY IF THE NON-ENERGY ASPECTS OF EC-FUNDED RESEARCH BEGIN TO EXPAND. HOWEVER, OUR CONCLUSION AT THIS POINT, AND UNTIL THERE HAS BEEN A MORE CAREFUL EVALUATION OF THE POTENTIAL FOR INCREASED COOPERATION (WHICH OES OR NSF MIGHT WISH TO UNDERTAKE), IS THAT A FORMAL AGREEMENT MIGHT OBSTRUCT RATHER THAN STIMULATE SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES BY INTRODUCING AN OVERLY STRUCTURED SYSTEM AND PROCEDURES WHERE NONE ARE YET REQUIRED. EC COMMISSION SOURCES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAVE ALSO COMMENTED THAT GENERAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS OFTEN DO NOT ADVANCE COLLABORATION UNLESS THEY INCLUDE PROVISIONS FOR FUNDING OR PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS ON ACTUAL PROGRAMS.

8. ACTION REQUESTED. WE WOULD APPRECIATE REACTIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER INTERESTED US GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW THEY COULD BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE US SIDE. WE COULD THEN DISCUSS THE RECOMMENDATIONS INFORMALLY WITH EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS AND OBTAIN THEIR VIEWS. HINTON

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